

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/010775

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-5 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-4 _____ received by this Authority on /filed with the demand
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/2-2/2 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
1. Prior art			
This report makes reference to the following documents:			
D1: US-B1-6 471 804 (AABERG THOMAS ET AL) 29 October 2002 (2002-10-29)			
D2: EP-A-0 818 188 (UNI CHARM CORP) 14 January 1998 (1998-01-14)			
D3: EP-A-0 793 953 (HARTMANN PAUL AG) 10 September 1997 (1997-09-10)			
2. Novelty			
D1 is regarded as the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1. It discloses (cf. D1, column 1, lines 7-17, column 2, lines 20-31, claim 1, figure 2):			
a method wherein at a first station, a piece of material is joined to a layer of material by means of ultrasonic sealing and then, at a second station, the entire contact surface is joined by means of			

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	<p>ultrasonic sealing. The laminate formed in such a manner can be used in absorbent products in particular.</p> <p>The subject matter of the amended claim 1 therefore differs from the known method in that the closing strip (or the piece of material) are fixedly joined to the opposing surface by means of cold pressing.</p> <p>Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>The problem to be solved by the present invention can therefore be regarded as that of providing an alternative to ultrasonic sealing.</p> <p>The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:</p> <p>Other methods requiring greater outlay are disclosed in the prior art (cf. D2, column 4, lines 6-51, D3, column 5, lines 12-29), and therefore it would not be obvious for a person skilled in the art to select this method step. Furthermore, the literature contains nothing that suggests selecting this method in particular.</p> <p>Claims 2-4 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.</p>